

**MINUTES
STUDY SESSION
URBANA BOARD OF EDUCATION
JEAN F. BURKHOLDER
ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICE CENTER
September 2 , 2008
7:30 P.M.**

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

President Netter called the meeting to order at 7:31 p.m.

2.0 ROLL CALL

Present: Mark Netter, President
John Dimit, Vice-President
Ruth Ann Fisher, Secretary
Benita Rollins-Gay, Secretary Pro Tem
Cope Cumpston, Board Member
Steve Summers, Board Member

Also Present: Preston L. Williams, Jr., Superintendent
Don Owen, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum & Instruction
Gayle Jeffries, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources
Susan Baker-Ory, Assistant Superintendent of Special Services
Carol Baker, Director of Business/Finance
Ota Dossett, Director of Facilities and Grounds

Absent: Brenda Carter, Board Member

3.0 ADDITIONS, CORRECTIONS AND MODIFICATION OF AGENDA

Additional personnel items were presented.

4.0 CITIZEN STATEMENTS

5.0 CALL FOR EXECUTIVE MEETING/SESSION (After Current Meeting)

6.0 APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Member Cumpston moved to approve the modified agenda, seconded by Secretary Fisher. Motion passed.

7.0 ADMINISTRATIVE BRIEFINGS AND REPORTS

7.01 Revised Urbana High School Restructuring Plan

The Board of Education received the revised Urbana High School restructuring plan for review. Approval of the revised plan will be requested at the September 16, 2008, Business Meeting.

The revised plan calls for installing a District Improvement Monitoring Team. The team will be made up of the Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, Assistant Superintendent for Special Services, high school principal, middle school principal, and one elementary school principal. This team will replace a proposed administrator. The team will work with the U of I's Center for Education in Small Urban Communities to see if the institute can provide assistance. The Monitoring Team will also work to develop a more comprehensive plan for program evaluation in the future. The restructuring committee recommends that the administration also contract with a facilitator who will chair a community committee that provides input and representation to a variety of building and district improvement planning committees.

Vice-President Dimit said he would support the plan only if it contained a commitment to move forward to hire an achievement compliance officer for the 2009-10 school year. Member Summers expressed concern about the costs of the revised plan. Member Summers asked administrators to find out costs of contracting with the U of I and hiring a facilitator. Member Cumpston stated that it was good to start this plan with the District Improvement Monitoring Team. Secretary Fisher stated that she wished she could take back her vote of a few months ago against hiring the administrator. She formally apologized for that vote. President Netter said this plan is a map that will "get us where we want to go."

Superintendent Williams stated that the high school restructuring plan is going "full speed ahead" with the exception of the hired administrator. He also stated that the proposed members of the Monitoring Team are already working hard each day to make sure students are achieving and those people are "making a difference." The Superintendent noted that the UHS graduation rate is "breaking trends" and that the high school

curriculum has come “light years” without administrators or other resources. He said that no matter the board’s decision the work to improve student achievement will have to be done.

The school board reached a consensus to have administrators come back to the board meeting on September 16 with cost estimates, have further discussion, and take a formal vote in October.

8.0 POLICY REVIEW

9.0 PUBLIC HEARING

9.01 Public Hearing of the FY09 District Budget

Public hearing on the 2008-2009 budget was held.

President Netter opened the public hearing of the FY09 District Budget at 8:30. With no public input, the public hearing was closed at 8:31 p.m.

9.02 Public Hearing of the FY09 Adult Education Budget

Public hearing on the 2008-2009 Adult Education budget was held.

President Netter opened the public hearing of the FY09 Adult Education Budget at 8:31 p.m. With no public input, the public hearing was closed at 8:32 p.m.

10.0 ACTION ITEMS (If necessary, consent/individual)

10.01 Personnel Items

Approval of various personnel items were requested.

Vice-President Dimit moved to approve item 10.01, seconded by Member Rollins-Gay. On a roll call vote, all members present voted “aye.” Motion passed. Absent: Member Carter

11.0 STUDY TOPIC(S)

11.01 FY09 Budget Update

Carol Baker, Director of Business, made a PowerPoint presentation regarding the FY09 budget to the Board of Education.

The board will vote on the 56-million dollar spending plan at the September 16, 2008 business meeting. Board members praised Baker for her conservative budgeting philosophy.

12.0 CALL FOR FUTURE SPECIAL/EXECUTIVE MEETINGS

13.0 SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

14.0 BOARD REPORT(S)

Vice-President Dimit reported that District 116 will form a campaign committee for the 1% Sales Tax Referendum in November. Ms. Tina Gunsalus will be co-chairing the effort.

15.0 ADJOURNMENT

Vice-President Dimit moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Member Rollins-Gay. Motion passed.

President Netter declared the meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

President

Secretary